



The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

Vol. 26, No. 3-- Friday, Feb. 8, 2002 -- Brooks AFB, Texas

Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

## Air Force still committed to AEF rotation cycles

By Tech. Sgt. Tim Dougherty

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The combination of America's war on terrorism and steady state commitments worldwide has put increased strain on the Air Force's aerospace expeditionary forces. However, except for a few stressed career fields, officials at the Pentagon say normal rotations should be back soon.

"Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper is committed to the AEF construct — a three-month deployment with a 12-month period at home," said Maj. Gen. Jeffrey B. Kohler, director of operational plans, deputy chief of staff for air and space operations.

"Given the war on terrorism, we had to go through a momentary blip in our rotation schedule," he said. "However, it looks like we're going to be on time in bringing home about 90 percent of the people who are currently deployed. We will rotate the forces deployed for operations Enduring Freedom, Northern Watch and Southern Watch so that those who deployed first will be allowed to rotate home first to the maximum extent possible."

There are some exceptions, Kohler said. While Air Force leaders are working hard to come up with a solution, a very small number of career fields may not be able to rotate as scheduled, he said.

"We know that there are some stressed career fields, such as security forces, combat communications and firefighters, that might have to stay a little longer," Kohler said. "But that's not to say

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

### Viewing the future

Members of the 311th Human Systems Program Office, the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine and the Air Mobility Command got a glimpse of the future of aeromedical evacuation on board a C-17 during a recent training flight. The flight was intended to evaluate the new Patient Support Pallet developed by the 311th SPO. See story, Page 9.

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# SPO tests patient support devices aboard first CRAF training flight

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Conspicuously looming on the Lackland Air Force Base runway, a commercial U.S. Airways 767 jet made Air Force air evacuation history recently during the initial training flight of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet and inaugural flight of the Aeromedical Evacuation Support Platform.

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, in part, provided the impetus to exercise for the first time a CRAF airliner reconfigured as an air ambulance.

The 767 jet is one of about 40 aircraft that serve the federal government's emergency backup transportation needs for mass casualty evacuations.

Delta Airlines and U.S. Airways are the contract CRAF carriers for aeromedical evacuation.

Prior to the CRAF aircraft's maiden voyage, Raytheon Aircraft Integration System personnel re-configured the plane for its historic air evacuation training mission under 311th Human Systems Program Office's oversight.

"RAIS installed the aeromedical evacuation shipsets in Greenville, Texas. All but a few seats were pulled out of the airplane at Charlotte, N.C. before arriving in Greenville. They transformed it into a medical evacuation transport aircraft," said Master Sgt. Ernie Lozares, SPO's aeromedical consultation team superintendent.

Lozares' team installed the redesigned AESP developed by Stryker Medical of Kalamazoo, Mich.

The Stryker system provides a stable air evacuation platform for spinal cord injury patients.

Air Mobility Command is the lead agency for aeromedical evacuation and the primary AESP customer.

Lozares said reconfiguring a 767 with AESP, supported by the Patient Loading System, was a worthwhile experience for RAIS, the SPO and the U.S. Airways crew.

"This is the first time we have flown medical crews in a reconfigured 767 for the sole purpose of training aeromedical evacuation crew members, flight attendants and critical care teams. All three teams learned valu-

able lessons that will help us effectively operate when called upon for deployments," Lozares said.

"We haven't exercised the CRAF in five years," said U.S. Airways flight attendant Susan Phelps-Sikes, CRAF training plan author.

Phelps-Sikes was part of the U.S. Airways crew that participated in the cross-country CRAF training mission.

The flight originated in Charlotte, N.C. and proceeded to Greenville, Tx. for reconfiguration. The air ambulance crew, including the SPO's chief flight nurse Maj. Denise Augustine and AMC flight nurses, conducted the CRAF training roadshow at Scott, McChord, Charleston, Travis and Andrews AFBs before their final stop at Lackland AFB.

"We have learned (so far) that Air Force emergency procedures are pretty close to our procedures. Working with the military has been a valuable experience," Phelps-Sikes said.

"It's been very exciting in learning how good our training is compared with the military," added flight attendant Jane Taylor.



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By Capt Sonya Ferreira

311th Human Systems Wing

Many people have wondered why special observances are important. A quick poll of the population might provide the best insight. While our social and educational systems provided centuries of historical accounts that highlighted the contributions of Americans, most contributions made by people of minority descent were excluded.

Many of the benefits enjoyed by all Americans were created from the minds of minority scholars who never received recognition.

So begins the journey of a people who sought to find their heritage amongst a culture who did not recognize their worth.

Dr. Carter Woodson was a pioneer and scholar who sought to bring the contributions of black people to the forefront of American society.

Although, he was born to parents who were former slaves and spent his childhood working in coal mines in Kentucky, he aspired to be what most black people could not obtain in the early 1900s.

While earning a Ph.D from Harvard University, Dr. Woodson was disappointed to discover that contributions of black people were generally ignored in American history. In 1915, Dr. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. He went on to establish the Journal of Negro History.

By Lt. Col. Jim Hamrick

Headquarters Air Combat Command

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. - Everyone is an individual beacon of dedication to our country and values. Combined, our beacons become a lighthouse for the entire world to see.

A lighthouse for all free people. A lighthouse guiding us and those who reside in the most forlorn regions of the world. When we stand tall and do the right thing, we light the way ahead and others follow.

Conversely, when our enemies see the strength of our light, they retreat to their hiding places. Our illuminating beam deters, detects and, if necessary, defeats the enemies of America and her allies.

How do we deter the enemy? We become beacons of professionalism. We carry out our duties with a new sense of resolve and commitment. We know our requirements and we execute them flawlessly. We document our lessons learned and tout our successes in public forums. Let our enemies see our strength and know we are ready — they will be deterred.

How can we detect the enemy? We are sensors. Whether deployed far away or attending an event in

In 1926, he launched Negro History Week in an effort to recognize the contributions of black people throughout American history.

Pioneers such as Dr. Woodson not only blazed the trail for black people, they opened the door for recognition of all people.

America, from its inception, has been a nation of diversity. The American culture is founded on European settlers who had a vision to build a better nation. It is founded on African slaves who were the backbone of the American economy and provided economic stability to a growing nation. It is founded on Native American Indians who showed our founding fathers how to survive in a new land.

So Americans celebrate Black History Month because it is a celebration of America. It is a time to reflect and pay tribute to the contributions black Americans have made to this great nation.

Whether written in the history books or passed down through cultural traditions, black people have given of their time, their talents, and even

their lives for all Americans. They have defended America at home and abroad, even when America did not defend them.

So we celebrate a people who turned personal tragedies into national triumphs, who by their perseverance have made a better nation, a better America for everyone.

## A lighthouse called America

the local community, remain vigilant. Always be on watch for the enemy. Illuminate the activities of those who wish to harm us.

We have resolve. Those enemies not deterred will feel our wrath. When the enemy attacks, we will defend and, if necessary, we will attack. Seek out the backwater strongholds of the enemy and destroy them. Attack the enemy out of the blackness of night skies, from the depths of the oceans, and on cat feet in their own backyards. Defeat the enemy and reveal the foolishness of their ways in the light of explosions and the red glow of lasers.

Our lighthouse will shine for all free people even as we bring to justice the enemies of America. The world will witness the goodwill of Americans — the exhaustive efforts taken to minimize civilian casualties and care for people displaced in war-torn regions. Our actions will illuminate the vast differences between our enemies and us.

As an American, you are a beacon for the world. Your beacon is part of a lighthouse that guides the people of the world toward freedom and away from dictators, tyrants, and demagogues. Always shine your light proudly for all to see. You are part of the lighthouse called America. (Courtesy Air Combat Command News Service)

The *Discovery* is online.

Go to <http://www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery>.



# DoD, AF unveil fiscal 2003 budget proposals

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker  
*Air Force Print News*

WASHINGTON — The president’s fiscal 2003 budget proposal authorizes \$379 billion for the Department of Defense to win the war against terrorism, defend America, improve the quality of life for men and women in uniform and accelerate the transformation of the military to counter 21st century threats, senior defense officials announced.

The proposal includes \$3 billion for counterterrorism, force protection and homeland security, senior defense officials said. It also includes \$1.2 billion for continued air patrols over the United States and added funding for munitions, communications and other critical needs.

The budget also addresses several quality-of-life improvements, including a 4.1-percent increase in military basic pay with possible additional targeted raises for midgrade officers and noncommissioned officers. It continues the campaign to eliminate out-of-pocket housing expenses, reducing overall costs from 11.3 percent to 7.5 percent this year. It also allocates \$4.2 billion for family housing accounts to eliminate inadequate housing by 2007.

The Air Force’s portion of the budget, \$87.2 billion, continues the service’s investment in its people, maintains its readiness and accelerates its air and space transformation. The budget is divided into four categories: people, operations and readiness, physical plant, and modernization and transformation.

More than 34 percent, which is the largest portion of the Air Force budget, is geared toward Air Force people and improving their quality of life.

The service has set aside \$27.7 billion for pay and compensation, almost \$1 billion for recruiting and retention initiatives and \$1.5 billion to modernize 8,400 Air Force family housing units.

The Air Force has dedicated 28 percent of its budget to its flying operations, combat training, space operations, base support and military training and education.

The service has funded \$10.9 billion for 2.1 million flying hours, overhauls for 369 airframes and 833 engines, and for spares, supplies, fuel and logistics support. The budget provides \$487 million for combat training on 26 ranges and more than 170 exercises. Space operations received \$1.6 billion.

Overall base support functions received \$6.1 billion, and professional military education, accessions and technical training programs received \$905 million.

The Air Force is taking an investment strategy with regards to its physical plant, dedicating \$4.3 billion of its budget to sustaining its facilities, the senior budget official said.

The Air Force is spending 32 percent of its budget, more than \$28 billion, on modernization and transformation of its forces to counter any future threats.

“This transformation combines stealth and advanced weapons with horizontally integrated surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities from manned and unmanned air and space assets,” a senior budget official said.

“These capabilities will enable our war fighters to have the right information at the right place and right time,” he said. “It will allow us to strike any adversary, any place, any time, any weather, day or night.”

## Rotation

*Continued from Page 1*

Another way to relieve some of the burden on our deployed people is to find airmen who normally do not deploy and place them in an AEF library.

“This crisis has caused us to look a little bit deeper,” Kohler said. “We’d like to be able to find people who we haven’t originally had in an AEF library who can deploy but normally don’t deploy. For example, Air Education and Training Command has instructors who have special skill sets, and the AETC leadership has said that there may be periods in the year when they can rotate. This is just one example and we’re looking at all options.”

Other fixes for stressed career fields are going to take some time and may only be resolved with increased manpower. Although the Air Force has asked for an end-strength increase of about 22,000 with 7,000 requested for this year, because of training requirements, this is more of a long-term solution, Kohler said.

“This is an extraordinary time for the Air Force and our country,” Jumper recently told commanders. “The nation is grateful for the sacrifices our airmen continue to make in meeting our commitments to fight the war on terrorism and defend the American homeland. The secretary and I are proud of the job you are doing and we are personally committed to maintaining the AEF rotation schedule to the greatest possible extent.”



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Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2001

Service Members of the Quarter  
Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2001



Airman  
Airman 1st Class Joseph  
Schuerger  
AFIERA



NCO  
Staff Sgt. Paulina Narvaez  
AFIERA



Senior NCO  
Senior Master Sgt. Manuel Topete  
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Staff Sgt. Jeffery Michell  
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Capt. Stephen Gaboriault  
USAFSAM



Category I Student Aide  
Heather Canales  
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Category II GS3-5  
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Category III GS6-8  
Leticia Leal  
311th HSW/YASK



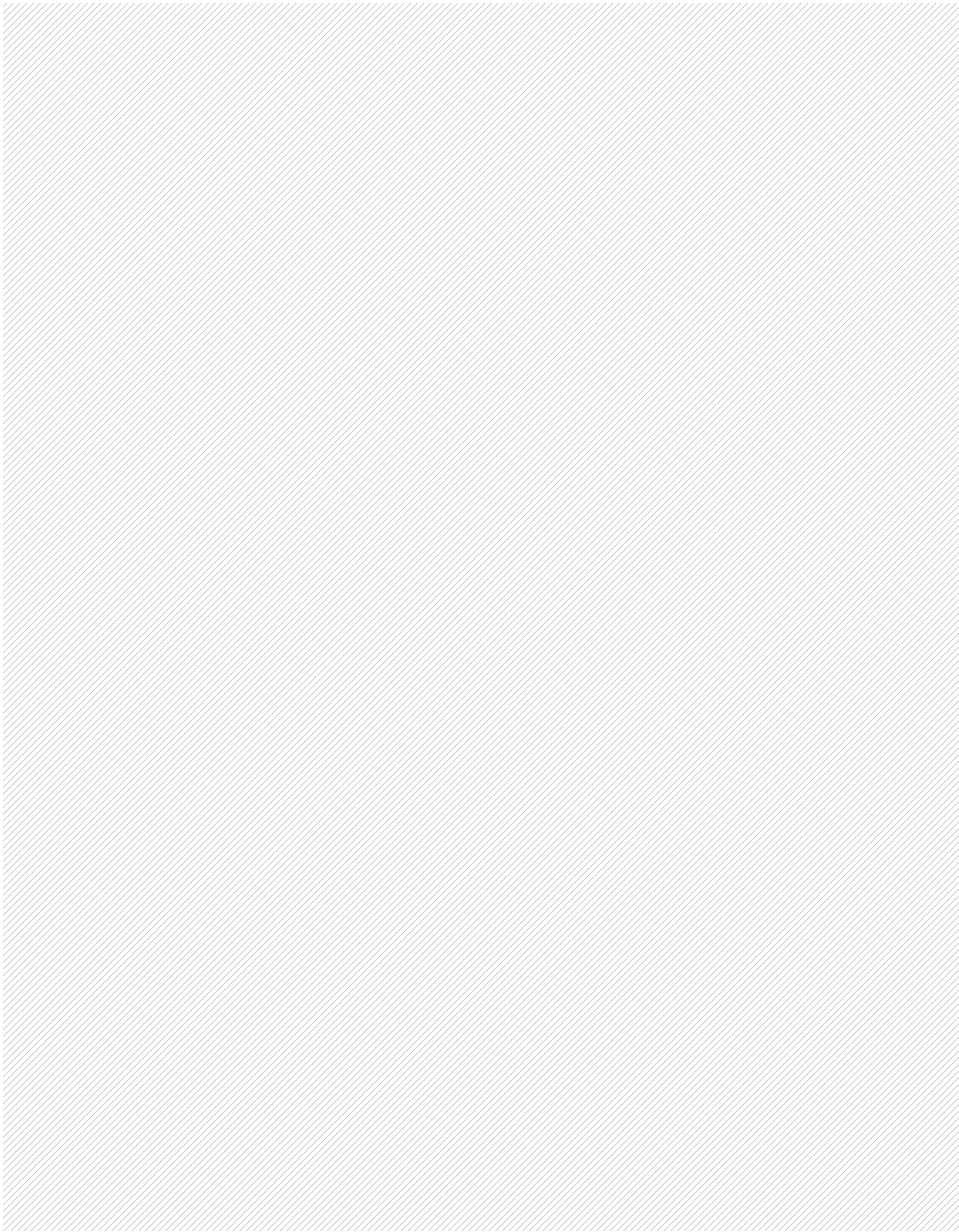
Category IV GS9-11  
Alice Sanders  
311th HSW/YASK



Category V GS12-13  
Steven Quick  
311 HSW/CS



Category VII NAF  
Lori Cooks  
311 ABG/SVH





# “Apollo 13” screenwriter ‘lands’ at Hangar 9

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

For “Apollo 13” screenwriter William Broyles Jr., visiting an Air Force base where legendary astronauts have trained was like ‘coming full circle’ in his Hollywood career that began with the movie about the ill-fated NASA moon mission. The Austin resident, whose other major screenplays include “Cast Away” and “Planet of the Apes,” was equally enamored with Brooks for its contributions to motion picture history.

“This is the place where the movie ‘Wings’ was filmed, the first motion picture to win a ‘best picture’ Academy Award,” Broyles said in his opening remarks as keynote speaker for the San Antonio Library Foundation’s “literary feast” held Feb. 2 at Hangar 9.

Broyles, his wife Andrea and in-laws were among 40 invited guests to the San Antonio Library Foundation’s third annual fundraiser, the first held at Brooks. “Claire English and I came up with the idea for hosting our event (here) because of the Challenger Learning Center,” said Library Foundation executive board member Carmen Goldberg.

The organization coordinated their event with the Brooks Heritage Foundation’s Shelia and Herbert Klein. Guests participated in a Challenger Learning Center mission, followed by a catered dinner at Hangar 9.

Goldberg said her organization modeled their annual event after the New York City Public Library’s “literary feast” fundraisers. The Brooks-based “literary feast” was one in a series of venues, featuring various book themes and speakers, that were recently staged throughout the city.

Broyles was glad he accepted the invitation to speak from a friend who is a Library Foundation board member. “I was here (in San Antonio) a few weeks ago to attend my son’s graduation at Lackland Air Force Base,” Broyles said, referring to his oldest child David who has since been reassigned to Laughlin AFB in Del Rio for pararescue training.

During his first Brooks visit, Broyles was impressed by the base’s heritage, particularly its contributions to America’s space program.

Born in Baytown, Texas, the 57-year-old author attended Rice University and Oxford University.

After the Vietnam veteran served three years as a Marine Corps lieutenant, he embarked on a publishing career.

“I was hired in 1972 to be the (founding) editor of Texas Monthly magazine,” Broyles said, noting that the politically savvy publication premiered in 1973.

His reputation as an award-winning editor later earned him the job of editor-in-chief of Newsweek magazine.



Broyles

Broyles left publishing in 1984 to lecture and teach at the University of California at Los Angeles, University of Southern California, Rice, New York University, Columbia University, the U.S. Naval Academy, Smithsonian Institution and the University of Texas at Austin. During this period he wrote his first book: Brothers in Arms.

“When I left Newsweek, I was eager to write about the nurses who served in Vietnam. Nobody had done that before,” he said, noting that the only thing that came close was the Korean War-based “M.A.S.H.” Broyles’s friend in the TV industry led him to co-create the TV series “China Beach.” The series won four Emmy awards and helped launch Broyles into Hollywood screenwriting.

He teamed up with former Texas Monthly colleague Al Reinert to write the original screenplay for “Apollo 13.” “Al had already written a documentary on space, and David Friendly, who I had worked with at Newsweek, was (Apollo 13 director) Ron Howard’s production company vice president,” recalls Broyles.

Broyles did not base his screenplay on astronaut Jim Lovell’s best-selling book by the same name. However, he interviewed Lovell and his wife numerous times, as well as many former Mission Control members involved in the Apollo 13 mission. He gleaned from those interviews, and the actual mission record, invaluable material in which to base his drama.

Broyles said he was drawn to the project because of its allure as a true story and the actual characters who experienced unprecedented situations. The script was also a challenge in that he had to dramatize an event in which the audience already knows the outcome.

“The way we solved it was getting the audience to become emotionally committed to the (astronauts’) families who didn’t know what was going to happen as the (actual) story unfolded,” Broyles said. Aiding him in his story-telling was special insights that motivated the characters, ranging from Lovell who commanded the Apollo 13 mission, to astronaut Ken Mattingly who had been scrubbed from the mission but later became the savior of Apollo 13.

Broyles said he is intrigued by the recurring theme of people placed in seemingly impossible situations who overcome insurmountable obstacles by devoting themselves to a common goal. He cited “Cast Away” as his favorite project to date.

Having worked with actor Tom Hanks and director Ron Howard on both “Apollo 13” and “Cast Away,” Broyles said, “I really enjoy working with them because they have a sense of responsibility to the real people they are trying to portray and who they admire. They are devoted to getting things right.”

Rudolph.Purificato@brook.af.mil



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**Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd**  
311th Human Systems  
Wing commander

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Pre-registering a must**

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### PCS overseas

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### Resume workshop

**11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Feb. 20, Bldg. 538—**

Learn the different resume styles and how to write and use them effectively to open career opportunities; learn the do's and don'ts of resume development; and as an added bonus, learn how to develop impressive cover and thank you letters.

### San Antonio military community job fair

**9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Feb. 20, Bldg. 538—**

Approximately 150 employers will be recruiting for all types of jobs. Whether you are seeking employment now or gathering information for future career decisions, make this job fair a part of your transition/job search strategy. Where else can you reach so many employers in a single event?

The Job Fair is open to all Department of Defense military, active duty and retired, civilian personnel, and family members. A list of the registered Job Fair employers will be available at the following website: [www.taonline.com](http://www.taonline.com).

### Education grant program

**By LaWanda Hawkins**

Last year, the Air Force Aid Society awarded more than \$7.5 million in education grants to college students. Don't automatically think you won't qualify for this \$1,500 grant. The society has tailored the program to reasonable standards that fit Air Force families. Visit your AFAS Section or the society's web site at [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org) for information and application. Application deadline is March 15.



# Help Desk crew aids and comforts computer friendlies

**By Rick Guidry**  
*Discovery Staff Writer*

Military organizations tend to assign acronyms to just about anything. Sometimes the connections between titles and functions are recognizable by the greenest troops. Other times you have to be a frequent customer to fully appreciate the label.

In the case of the 311 Communication Squadron at Brooks, its Help Desk is suitably named.

The desk is actually a three-person crew of computer operators who help Brooks users go on-line and stay on-line. Two members, Bob Blackmon and Larry Van Slyke are General Dynamics employees, while the third position is military, manned on a rotating basis with the Network Control Center.

Blackmon, who's been at the Help Desk for more than five years, says the staff validates passwords, unlocks accounts, troubleshoots software problems, and generally tries to help customers work through bugs that keep them off line for one reason or another.

A retired Air Force master sergeant, who worked mostly in the communications in-

telligence area, Blackmon says people in his line of work need a few essential tools in the satchel. He identifies those tools as "a good sense of humor, a desire to provide good customer service, and a knack for keeping customers calm."



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez*

**The faces behind the desk, Larry VanSlyke and Bob Blackmon, work customer service to keep Brooks personnel on-line.**

Van Slyke, a former Army troop who "worked on missiles," calls Blackmon "the answer man." Blackmon doesn't seem to mind, saying "we don't hold it against Larry that he is prior Army."

Military organizations are also big on chain of command procedures.

In the case of the Help Desk, 311th Communication Squadron officials remind base computer users they should contact their

work group managers first with on-line issues.

Chances are the average person at Brooks will never recognize Blackmon or Van Slyke if they were to run into them at Sidney's. Even so, it won't take a military tactician to figure out they're a truly big help.

*John.Guidry@brooks.af.mil*



# New patient support system to transform AF air evacuation

By Rudy Purificato and  
2nd Lt. Stephen Kalinowsky  
*311th Human Systems Wing*

It's not as quick as traveling through cyberspace, but a new patient transport device being developed at Brooks may give future Air Force air evacuees the sensation of having traveled "in the blink of an eye."

Called the Patient Support Pallet, the prototype system being evaluated by the 311th Human Systems Program Office is designed to rapidly reconfigure Air Force cargo aircraft into air ambulances.

Pacific Air Forces and Air Mobility Command are two major customers interested in this system that represents a significant evolutionary advancement in air evacuation.

"Less than a year ago during 'Pacific Warrior' (exercise) in Hawaii, PACAF decided it needed a new litter system to transport patients," said Col. Daniel Berry, 311th HSW SPO's Aeromedical and Medical Information Systems Division chief.

PACAF's urgent requirement, Berry explained, is based on their need to move patients more rapidly and efficiently using available air transport resources. These resources are dwindling due to maintenance issues and the scheduled retirement of the C-141, to be phased out by 2004.

As a consequence, insufficient aircraft capable of fulfilling air evacuation requirements has significantly hampered PACAF transport missions.

In calendar year 2000, less than half of the 8,700-plus patients air evacuated in the Pacific region arrived at their destination on time. In many cases, PACAF officials said, mission delays averaged in excess of four hours.

"PACAF approached the SPO with a requirement to develop a portable patient litter system with roll-on/roll-off capability," Berry said, noting that such a device could be used on KC-135 aircraft.

"KC-135s were not designed for patient litters. Unlike other aircraft such as the C-17 where

litters can be tied to the floor, this is not possible in KC-135s because the floor temperature (when airborne) is 32 degrees Fahrenheit," Berry said.

PSP provides a solution. It could greatly expand the number of available air evacuation-capable aircraft, including KC-135s and KC-10s that historically have not been used as air ambulances because of their design as fuel tankers.

Berry said, "We searched the world for commercial off-the-shelf systems with palletized seats." One of the four companies that had systems, that could be modified for Air Force use, was contracted to develop a prototype that is currently being tested and evaluated.

This prototype consists of a reinforced metal pallet featuring four variations of litter-airline seat configurations, mounted to the pallet, which can accommodate six people. Berry said future advance prototypes to be tested will feature electrical power, oxygen and lighting capabilities. There are also plans to develop a galley and restroom-mounted 'comfort' pallet.

In January, the PSP was evaluated during a C-17 training flight. "The SPO's objective for this mission was to conduct a proof-of-concept demonstration of the patient support pallet on a C-17 aircraft," said the SPO's Capt. Brian Collins, program manager.

The 446th Airlift Wing from McChord Air Force Base, Wa., provided the Air Reserve C-17 that arrived at Lackland AFB's Kelly Annex Jan. 18. Flight nurses and air evacuation technicians from the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine's Critical Care Air Transport Team (CCATT) assisted SPO personnel in the PSP evaluation.

Col. Calvin Williams, a USAFSAM adjunct faculty member who was a flight participant, said the training mission represented the Mirror Force concept at its best. Multiple Air Force assets were leveraged during the PSP test mission that also provided training for CCATT students and the Air Reserve flight crew. Williams credited USAFSAM's Capt. Beth Ann

Lumpkin-Gambill, an instructor flight nurse, for arranging this and other flights that have strengthened aeromedical evacuation mission capabilities while helping maximize Air Force funding for such endeavors.

SPO evaluators are optimistic that the PSP will save its customers money. Projected annual savings to PACAF is estimated to be \$6.6 million. This week, PACAF is scheduled to field test the PSP on a KC-135 during an actual air evacuation mission from Hickam AFB, Hawaii, to Yokota and Kadena Air Bases, Japan.

Berry noted three of the four prototypes are being rushed into service to meet current aeromedical evacuation needs.

*Rudolph.purificato@brooks.af.mil*



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

**Critical Care Air Transport Team students from the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine observe the Patient Support Pallet's configuration, featuring a litter/seat combination, during a recent training mission aboard a C-17. The training flight represented the Mirror Force concept, in which resources from the Air Force Reserve and the active component were used to support a joint mission.**



# NEWS

## briefs

### Base blood drive

The Brooks base blood drive is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m, Feb. 15 at the base chapel. Donors must weigh at least 110 lbs., be between the ages of 17-72, in good general health and not have donated in the past eight weeks. Eating foods high in iron, such as ham, liver, oysters, spinach and whole grain breads prior to donating can be helpful. For more information contact Staff Sgt. Sarah Cooper at 536-3734 or Staff Sgt. Angela Yuhas at 536-8383.

### Everyday heroes

The San Antonio Area American Red Cross and the American Heart Association are looking for everyday heroes who have saved or sustained a life using CPR or first aid for choking. If you or someone you know has used these skills to help someone in need, contact the Red Cross and tell your story. Local heros will be honored at this year's Crossroads Awards scheduled for Mar. 7 during the San Antonio City Council meeting. Nominations must be submitted by Feb. 12. Contact the Red Cross at 224-5151 for more information.

### Altitude test subjects

Scientists at Brooks need a number of volunteer subjects for participation in hypobaric (altitude) chamber research projects.

Air Force aircrew members who are interested and meet the qualifications will earn approximately \$150 per month for participating in one session per month.

Volunteers must meet Air Force body fat, height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least two years, be between 20-45 years old, and be able to pass an appropriate physical exam.

Contact Jim Carlile at 536-3546 or Heather Alexander at 536-3440 for more information.

### Civilian of the year breakfast

The Civilian of the Year annual award breakfast is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. March 1 at the Brooks Club. Nominees and winners are recongized for their achievements for the calendar year Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2001.

### National prayer luncheon

The Brooks 2002 National Prayer Luncheon is at noon, Feb. 20 in the Brooks

Club. Guest speaker is Chaplain (Col.) Ronald Kelling, the command chaplain at Air Force Materiel Command.

Kelling says he is particularly interested in the spiritual health of Brooks as changes take place.

Tickets for the buffet luncheon are \$5 and may be purchased from any first sergeant, chaplain or at the base chapel. For more information, call 536-3824/3825/3826.

### Education and training

The base Education and Training Office has moved from Bldg. 570-C to Bldg. 558/559. Hours of operation are 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday. CLEP/DANTES, officer professional military education, enlisted career development courses and selected college exams are administered in the new facility. Come by the new office or call 536-3617.

### Dental Clinic contest

In celebration of National Children's Dental Health Month, the Brooks Dental Clinic is holding a contest in which participants match clinic personnel with their smiles. All active duty, retirees, civilians and contractors are invited to participate. The "Smile Photos" will be located in the reception area of the dental clinic along with the ballots.

The winner will be announced Feb. 27 and will receive a 3D Excell Oral-B electric toothbrush with extra brushes.

For more information, contact Erla Naumann, R.D.H., Preventive Dentistry Director, or Staff Sgt. Anna Chapa, Perio Therapist, at 536-1846.

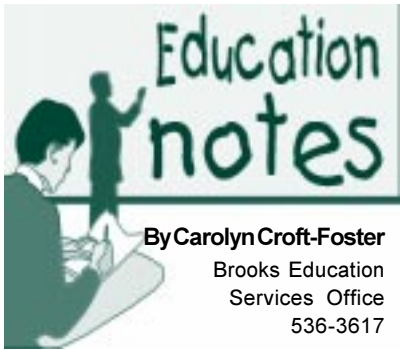
### Tuskegee Airman open house

The San Antonio Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. hosts its second- annual membership social and open house at 6:30 p.m March 8 at the Randolph Air Force Base Officers' Club.

The Tuskegee Airmen were Black pilots who received flight training at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama during and shortly after World War II.

Several local members who are original Tuskegee airmen will attend the free event. Refreshments, music and memorabilia will be available.

For more information contact Rick Sinkfield at 536-4188, or e-mail [marv.abrams@randolph.af.mil](mailto:marv.abrams@randolph.af.mil).



**Excelsior College  
essay exams**

Students wishing to take an Excelsior College Essay Exam (formerly Regents College) April 5 need to request their exam by March 8. Regular CLEP and DANTES testing is available at 8 a.m. Friday by appointment only. Call Education Services to reserve a seat or order an exam.

**ROTC application  
deadline**

Airmen interested in applying for the Airman Scholarship and Commissioning Program or the Professional Officers Course - Early Release Program need to have their applications completed and submitted to Education Services by March 2 for the March 15 board.

Call education services at 536-3617 to schedule an appointment to review application requirements.

**ACCD placement  
testing**

The Alamo Community College representative will administer the alternative TASP placement exam for students wanting to attend an ACCD school during Flex 2. The test is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Feb. 13 in Bldg. 558 and is open to active duty, civilians and family members. To reserve a seat, call 536-3617.

**CCAF Spring  
graduation deadline**

The deadline for Community College of the Air Force Spring 2002 graduation is Feb. 22. Nominations must be received by CCAF at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., by that date. Students who believe they are a degree candidate need to contact Education Services to ensure their nominations are submitted.

**Six CLEP exams retire**

The College Board is retiring six CLEP Subject paper-based tests in fiscal year 2002.

The exams that will retire July 1 are: American Government, College Algebra and Trigonometry, Human Growth and Development, Marketing, Sociology, and Trigonometry.

CLEP Testing will continue to be administered on Fridays but will now be located in Bldg. 558, testing room. For more information or to reserve a seat, please call 536-3617.



Edwards

**FULL NAME:***Senior Airman Cortney Edwards***DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:***Telephone Systems Technician  
311th Communications Squadron***WHAT IS MY JOB?:***Maintain base telecommunications***BIRTHDAY:***July 30, 1979***HOMETOWN:***Dallas, Texas***FAMILY STATUS:***Married***PERSONAL MOTTO***Smile now, cry later***HOBBIES:***Music, sports, computers, reading,  
movies***PET PEEVE:***Disrespectful people who want  
something for nothing.***BOOK OR BOOKS  
AT BEDSIDE?***As I Think***I JOINED THE AIR FORCE  
BECAUSE:***I have always wanted to be in the  
military, and for independence.***FIVE-YEAR GOALS:***I will be one of the top record  
producers in the nation.***ULTIMATE GOAL:***Be an example for people to see and  
say, 'if he can do it, so can I'.***IF I WON THE LOTTERY I'D:***Buy my mom and dad a huge house  
and reinvest the.***FAVORITE MUSIC:***I have no preference, I'm a music  
junkie.***LAST MOVIE WATCHED:***American Pie 2***MY GREATEST  
ACCOMPLISHMENT IS:***Putting together my own music studio  
in a year's time.***MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION  
IS:***My family*

# Airman making harmony in workplace

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Sabrina Johnson*

**Senior Airman Cortney Edwards maintains equipment at the 311th Communications Squadron.**

**By Rick Guidry***Discovery staff writer*

Senior Airman Cortney Edwards has been hitting high notes all his life. That may be one reason he's so composed when he says he'll be one of the top record producers in the nation within five years.

Well-versed in concerted efforts, the Dallas native credits the Air Force and his parents with helping him fulfill his dream.

He made his present rank below the zone, and becomes a staff sergeant March 1, having passed the test on his first try.

The telephone systems technician with the 311th Communication Squadron here maintains fixed and digital phones, modems, beepers, data circuits, and alarm systems. He knows the importance of harmony in the workplace. "Our goal is to allow our customers uninterrupted access to their communications systems. When glitches do occur, we work to fix them quickly, and to customer satisfaction," Edwards says.

When he's heard his last dial tone of the day, Edwards goes home to Converse where he slips into his recording studio. The budding producer built the 15-foot by 15-foot digital workshop from scratch in less than a year. Working with a diverse group of upcoming artists in San Antonio over the last 15 months, he's been laying vocals to original sound tracks with musical precision through his recording company "No Compromise".

"The results of my drive to be a music producer has been like rain falling on my face after a long drought. I've waited a long time for this, I've struggled to get to this point, and now it's coming true," Edwards asserts.

With 30 original scores of music in hand, ranging from soul, pop, tech-no music, hip-hop and jazz, the senior airman will visit Houston in mid-March to network with major record labels. Those include recording companies like Capitol, Universal, Blackground, and Virgin Records. He'll also be on the calendars of numerous publishers, distributors and industry managers.

"My goal is to show my versatility. I have produced about 30 different songs representing a wide range of the musical genre."

His favorite original song is titled 'Rain'.

"I like 'Rain' because it is sincere, and one that everyone can relate to. It's about striving for something that doesn't seem achievable," Edwards says a lyric from the song identifies "seeing what I dream to be, but not touching it, making moves everyday to become what should seem becomes rougher, stop the rain."

The accomplished musician has been playing music since he was 10 years old. "I started out playing the trumpet, and was first chair in every program I joined," Edwards said. He's been playing the piano for two years, and guitar for little more than a year.

A volunteer member of the Brooks Honor Guard, Edwards is bugler at funerals and special events. Coupled with similar duties when assigned to Andersen Air Base, Guam, Edwards has been a volunteer Air Force Honor Guard member for five consecutive years now.

"Learning to become a producer is a continuous process," the soon-to-be staff sergeant says. I'm constantly reading magazines and books on music, computers and electronics."

He adds that he tries to "emulate the drive and sacrifice of successful people. I don't exactly look to follow their formula, but I try to match or exceed their effort. I learned producing from sitting in on recording sessions with other producers in San Antonio. I picked up a lot of things from them. I'm aiming for production opportunities in Dallas, New York, Los Angeles or Chicago."

While he says producing is fun and relaxing, the first-termer is quick to underscore that it's also tedious work. Arranging, editing, writing lyrics, writing music, mixing and mastering are all demands of his dream profession Edwards explains.

The songwriter graduated from Skyline High School in Dallas, where he played varsity basketball and track for the Raiders. He spent his formative

years in the Oak Cliff area, and lived in Mesquite as a teenager.

His favorite recording artists are the Isley Brothers and Jimmi Hendrix. "The Isley Brothers represent the old music that influenced a lot of people that are big time now. It is mellow and has the power to relax you no matter what mood you are in. Hendrix was extremely different and talented. I feel like I can relate to him in some ways because being like everyone, you get what everyone else receives. Being a producer is definitely not a common person's hobby."

At first, it sounds ironic when Edwards says he shuns the limelight but likes to be a stand out. He explains, "Airmen are a stand-out part of the Air Force. They aren't in the spotlight, but the Air Force could not get anywhere without them. You can't get the job done without an airman. Just the same, an entertainer can't get anywhere without a producer."

Edwards credits his family and Air Force experience with preparing him for the next phase of his career. "My father was firm and taught me to be upright. The Air Force has been a great help in teaching me to be assertive and manage my time. With that background, I can achieve my goal to be a top record producer in five years."

His father Frederick is a minister in Dallas at Friendly Memorial Baptist Church. After attending South Oak Cliff High School he attended Tulsa University. Edwards' mother Carolyn is an accountant for Shipper's Warehouse in Dallas. She went to Lincoln High School in Dallas and earned an associate's degree in accounting from East Texas State University. Edwards said his strict upbringing made adapting to the Air Force easier for him.

His supervisor, Tech. Sgt. Quentin Benning, noncommissioned officer in charge of telephone systems, says "Senior Airman Edwards is an outstanding young man. It would be nice if we had more young people joining the Air Force today who have his drive. His goals are lofty, but they're achievable. I've watched him advance in his career in record time."

Edwards has been recognized as the 311 CS Airman of the Year for 2000, Airman of the Year nominee for 2001, Airman of the Quarter in 2000, and Airman of the Quarter in 1999. He was also Brooks Honor Guard Member of the Quarter nominee for 2000.

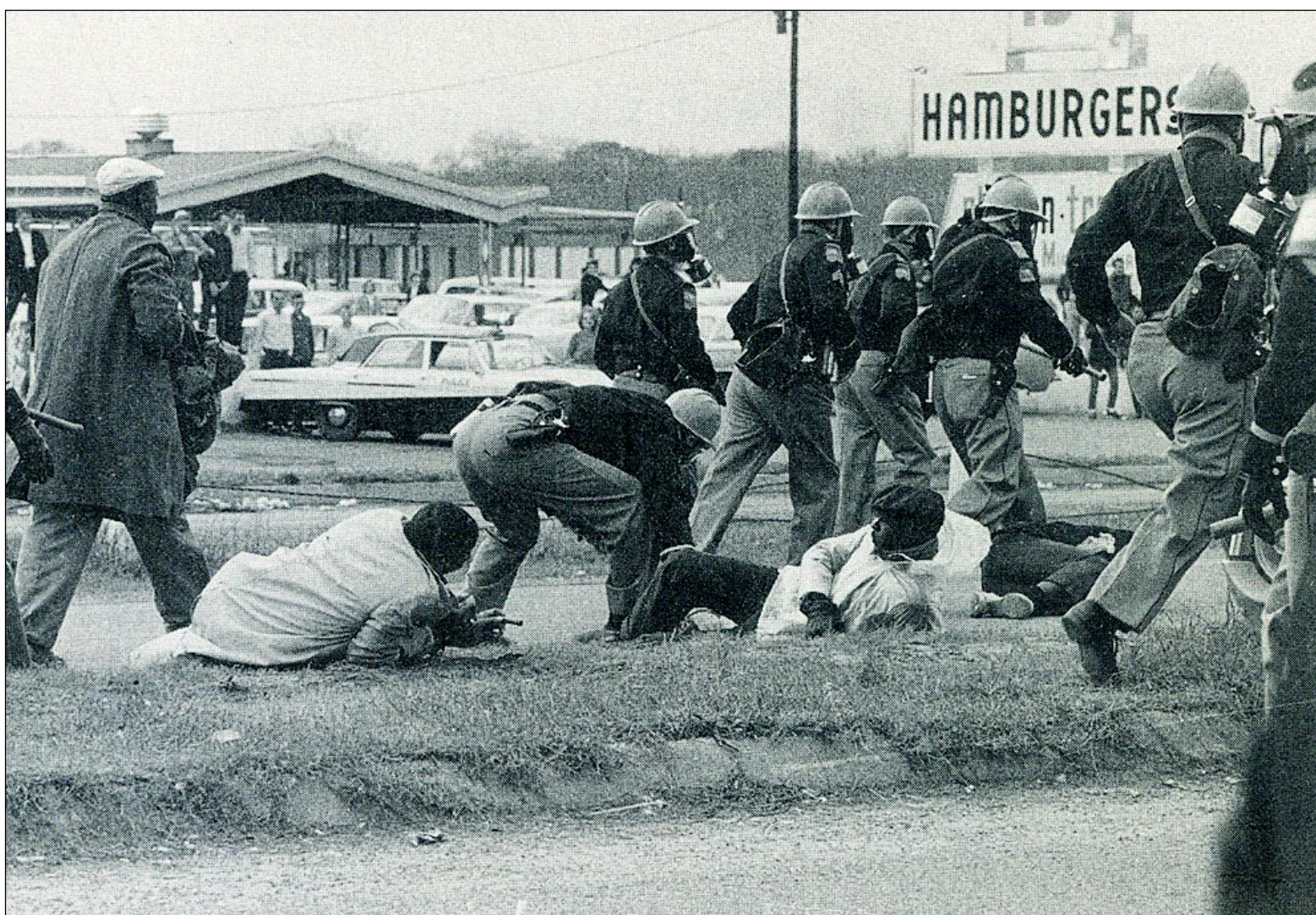
Wife Nicole, a Los Angeles native, is a staff sergeant, who's been in the Air Force for about nine years. She works for the 12th Air Base Group Supply Squadron at Randolph AFB. They have two children. His stepson Dana is 5, and son Camien is 14 months.

"I'm on the verge of doing something big. Once I climb that mountain, I'm going to invest more time into college and major in business management," Edwards promises.

The pitch in his voice indicates Cortney Edwards isn't just reciting lyrics.



# Former Brooks NCO recalls role in civil rights movement



Courtesy photo

Simpson's mother was among the marchers stopped by the state troopers on Bloody Sunday, March 7, 1965.

**By Rudy Purificato**

311th Human Systems Wing

It is fitting that a retired Air Force master sergeant, who once trained at Brooks AFB, today serves as the new principal of Martin Luther King Middle School. For John Simpson knows firsthand the significance of Dr. King's contributions, having lived in the Civil Rights Movement's epicenter during his youth in Selma, Ala.

"I was 12 years-old when I met him. His face looked angelic; his hands were so soft," Simpson recalls about the slain civil rights leader who frequently visited Selma during the early days of the Civil Rights Movement.

Born 50 years ago this month to Henry Simpson, an illiterate gas station attendant; and Lizzie, a retired cook; the future Air Force veteran experienced the turmoil of living in the segregated South.

"We lived in East Selma," Simpson said, recalling vividly the Ku Klux Klan's constant harassment of the Black community. "At around 2 a.m., about 15-20 cars would drive into our neighborhood blaring horns and flashing lights. Then they'd start shooting their guns in the air," he recalls. The Simpsons always took cover on the floor of their home. Across the street from their house, the Klan once burned a cross.

It was this and numerous other indignities that gave rise to the Civil Rights Movement. In the mid-1960s, Simpson became involved in Voting Rights marches.

"Adults (Black men) rarely got involved in the marches for fear of losing their jobs. Dr. King would hold mass rallies at Brown Chapel in Selma. My mother would let me go to the mass meetings. I was supposed

to be in school, but I knew they gave out cheese sandwiches and cocoa at those meetings," Simpson remembers.

Mostly women and children initially attended the Selma mass meetings. Participants adhered to King's strategy of non-violent civil disobedience. "We all sat down in the middle of the street in downtown Selma and sang, 'We Shall Not Be Moved.' I was carrying a placard that said 'We want to vote now!' Then some teenagers did something stupid. They taunted the police."

The police herded the demonstrators onto buses. Simpson resisted until he was jolted by an electric cattle prod. "I ended up at Camp Selma, a state prison. Thirty of us were packed into a cell with only one commode. We began singing spirituals. These songs took us through the night. We never stayed more than one or two nights in jail."

The demonstrations Simpson participated in were peaceful compared to what his mother endured during the infamous "Bloody Sunday" Voters Rights March in 1965. "My mother decided to participate in the march to Montgomery, 50 miles away," Simpson said, explaining the marchers met a violent end at the Edmund Pettus Bridge, east of Montgomery on the Alabama River.

"The group was met at the bridge by Alabama State troopers on horseback who ordered them to turn around," he said. Before the marchers could stage a sit-in, they were attacked by the mounted police who stampeded the crowd. Many marchers were injured, including Simpson's mother. One demonstrator was beaten to death.

"I was at home watching TV reports of the event when my mother came home bleeding. A horse had bitten a



Photo by Rudy Purificato

**John Simpson, former U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine master sergeant is the new principal of nearby Martin Luther King Middle School.**

giant plug out of her fake fur coat." Subsequent marches, which were protected by federal troops, contributed to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

"I realized that one way out of the city (Selma) was through education, which my mother stressed," Simpson graduated from segregated Hudson High School in 1970 and enlisted later that year in the Air Force. He eventually became a Lackland AFB drill instructor. In 1977, he cross-trained as a flight medicine specialist at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. He ended his Air Force career in Security Forces, retiring in 1991.

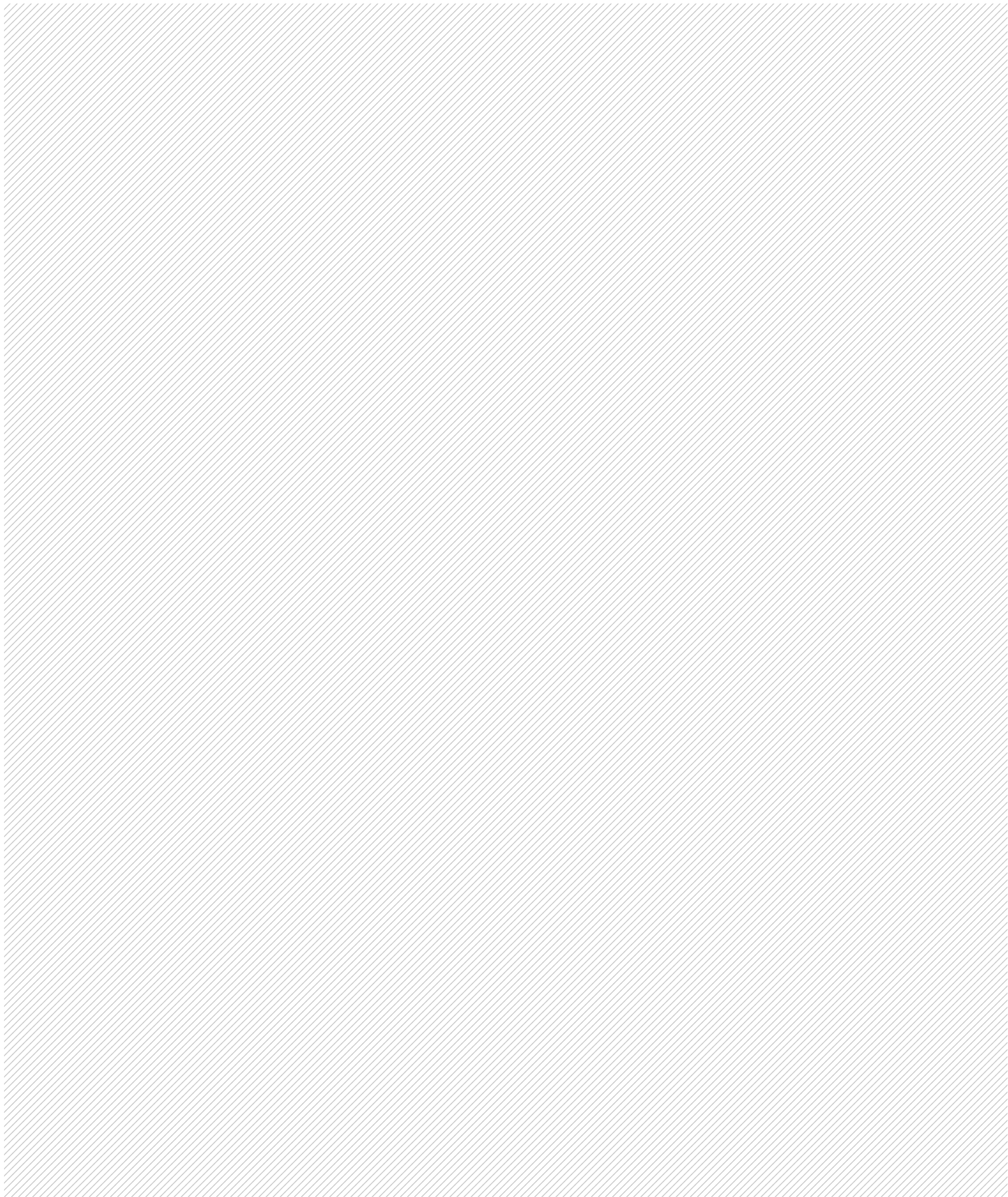
Since then, Simpson has pursued a successful career in education. After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Southwest Texas State University, he spent five years teaching at Southwest High School in San Antonio. Due to his mother's illness, he subsequently re-

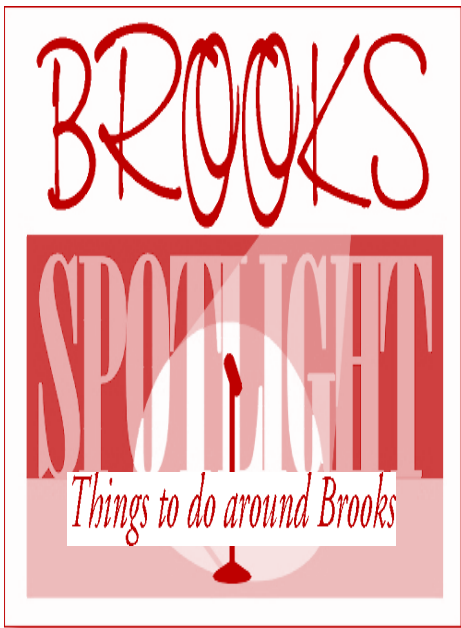
turned to Selma. He served as principal of the former all-white Selma High School where he succeeded in raising the academic standards of the low-performing school.

Last year, the San Antonio Independent School District hired Simpson to lead MLK Middle School, twice disestablished as a low-performing school, to academic excellence.

"The school is no longer low performing. The challenge is to take this school to exemplary status," he said. Simpson credits his upbringing, civil rights involvement and Air Force background for helping him develop the 'people skills' he needs to succeed in his new mission.

"I truly believe that every child can learn," he says. It's something he knows from experience, having overcome many obstacles to succeed in two careers as Air Force veteran and educator.





**By Jan McMahon**  
Brooks Services Marketing Office  
536-5475

## The FrameWorks

**Bldg. 1154, 536-2120/8648**  
Order your Valentines Day Balloon Bouquets now by calling The FrameWorks. Create your bouquet using latex and mylar balloons in various colors or choose one of our package deals—3 latex balloons (our choice), streamers and a Valentine sucker for \$3 or 5 latex balloons,

streamers and two suckers for \$5. You can also bring in your special gift to attach to the bouquet or select from a limited number of our mugs and bears.

Curb-side delivery is available. Pre-pay for your balloon order, call us and give us a pick-up time and we will bring them out to you at the drive-up delivery point in the rear of the building. It's that simple.

The FrameWorks has lowered its prices across the board. 2002 is the beginning of a new year and we have begun it with price reductions in all framing areas. Bring your photos, certificates or posters and let Becky assist you in selecting the right mat and molding to compliment your artwork.

## Fitness Center

**Bldg. 940, 536-2188**  
**AACA Fun Run**  
Sign-up for the AACA Fun Run scheduled for 11 a.m. Feb. 14. Call the staff for more details.  
The basketball court will be closed Feb. 26 -28 for Aerospace Career Day.

**Fitness Assessments**  
Fitness assessments are available by appointment Monday through Friday. Call and schedule your personal assessment now.

# Tax Tips

## Free Income Tax Assistance Available

### Brooks Tax Center Feb. 5-April 12

**Volunteer Income Tax Assistance representatives offer:**  
\* Free electronic filing of returns, by appointment  
\* Federal tax forms and schedules  
\* Answers to basic income tax questions

**Services are available for active duty, retirees and family members**

**Bldg. 912 Phone 536-8696**

Call your VITA representative for an appointment  
If you don't have a unit representative, call the number above

**Hours of operation:**  
Tuesday and Thursday 8-11 a.m. and noon-3 p.m.  
Wednesday 8-11 a.m., noon-3 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

E-file for free at the Brooks tax office.  
Call 536-3301 for your appointment.



# Brooks soccer coach leads team to state finals, eyes ‘Snickers Cup’

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

Capt. Larry Schad isn’t satisfied with his team’s recent third place finish in the South Texas Youth Soccer Association state finals. His Avengers squad, composed of some Brooks family members, is looking to advance to a higher ranking and perhaps a chance to compete for the prestigious U.S. Youth Soccer Association “Snickers Cup.”

For now, the 15-16 year-olds that the Air Force Research Laboratory behavioral scientist has been coaching are preparing for a Feb. 17 ‘challenge match’ in Pflugerville, Tx. with the Temple, Tx.-based Centex Storm.

“They are a Division I team and we’re a super Division II team. If we beat them, we switch rankings with them,” said Schad who works for the Human Effectiveness Directorate’s

Optical Radiation Branch. The Storm has accepted the challenge to defend their Division I ranking with the hopes of elevating their status by beating the Avengers, the defending Alamo Area Youth Soccer Association Western District Division champs.

The Avengers posted an 8-0-1 regular season record to capture the Western District divisional title. The top two teams from AYSA’s eastern and western districts advanced to the state finals held in Houston in January.

“It was the best finish we’ve had since I began coaching the team in August 1998,” Schad said. The Avengers’ beat the Houston Heat 1-0 for their only playoff victory. They had lost their first two playoff contests to the San Antonio Thunder 2-1 and Friendswood Fusion 1-0.

Eric Villarreal, who is not the Avengers’ leading scorer, accounted

for both of his team’s playoff goals. “He had a phenomenal playoff. Eric is a tenacious player,” Schad said of Villarreal who also is a Madison High School varsity soccer team player. Jason Horn also played extremely well tending the net, allowing just three playoff goals in three games. Horn is a starting Judson High School varsity soccer team goalie.

Among Brooks dependents on the Avengers squad are Schad’s son Larry; Josh Owen, son of Maj. Jeffrey Owen with the 311th Human Systems Wing Program Office; and Chris Roclevitch, son of former SPO member Lt. Col. Richard Roclevitch.

Schad is optimistic the Avengers will achieve Division I ranking. Should they come up short in their ‘challenge match,’ the Western District champs will play for the South Texas Youth Association’s “President’s Cup” in May.

## HAWC health tips

By Capt. Risa Riepma  
Brooks Health and Wellness Center

### American Heart Month

Are you at risk?

Heart disease is still the #1 killer in our nation today, claiming more than 1 million Americans each year. Answer the following questions to determine if you are at risk:

- \* Are you overweight?
- \* Do you have high blood pressure?
- \* Is your cholesterol over 200? HDL <35?
- \* Do any close relatives have heart disease?
- \* Do you have diabetes or smoke?
- \* Are you over 40?
- \* Do you avoid exercise?

If you answered the majority of the questions with a yes, you are at risk. Prevention is the key.

You can minimize your risk by :

- \* Eating a high fiber, low fat diet (less than 30% of calories from fat)
- \* Exercise vigorously for at least 20 minutes a minimum of 3 times a week
- \* Manage stress
- \* If you smoke, quit

For more information, contact the Health and Wellness Center at 536-4292.

## Win the Losing Battle

Are you interested in improving your fitness level and eating habits?  
Would you like to learn to manage your stress?

### Classes include:

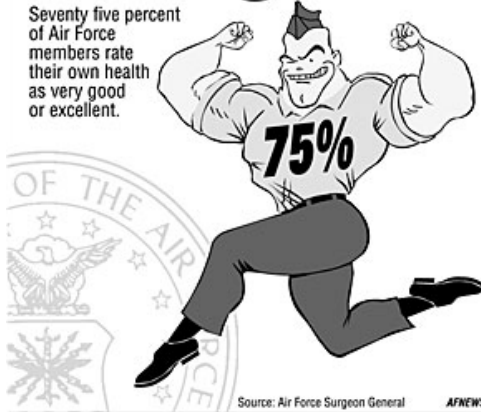
- Orientation:** 10-11 a.m. Feb. 21
- Nutrition class:** 10-11 a.m. March 7
- Fitness class:** 10-11 a.m. March 21
- Stress class:** 10-11 a.m. Apr. 11
- Run/Walk:** 3 p.m. Apr. 25

Prizes will be awarded to teams/individuals achieving the greatest percentage of their weight loss goal.

Contact Airman 1st Class Cathey at 536-4292 to enroll by Feb. 25.

## Feeling Fit!

Seventy five percent of Air Force members rate their own health as very good or excellent.



# Deployed airman returns home to run Olympic torch

By Senior Airman Kristina Bell  
16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. — She may have been thousands of miles from home supporting Operating Enduring Freedom, but Airman 1st Class Annie Vargas still managed to make it back in time to carry the Olympic torch in Santa Fe, N.M., recently.

Vargas, who is from the 16th Operations Support Squadron, is one of the 7,000 people from around the country who are carrying the torch to the start of the Winter Games in Salt Lake City Feb. 8.

Vargas found out she was selected in August and said she was excited at

the prospect of running the torch and representing her military branch of service.

She was picked out of a list of 200,000 nominees to carry the torch.

But after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Vargas said she felt her chances of carrying the torch were slim. Then she received deployment orders. She figured she would not be able to run the torch this year, but held hope she might be selected again in the future.

“I thought (running the torch) wouldn’t happen,” Vargas said. “Then my deployed commander found out about my selection and did what he could to bring me back to the states.”

So, on Jan. 12, Vargas was in Santa Fe, N.M., with her family preparing to run her mile with the torch.

After the flame was passed to her and she started to run, the crowd along the torch route began chanting her name.

“My grandmother was ahead of me, telling everyone my name and that I was in the Air Force,” Vargas said. “She was rallying the crowd.”

When the time came to pass the flame, she said she felt a special connection to the person she passed the torch to.

“On Sept. 11, I watched as the second plane crashed into the World Trade Center tower,” Vargas said. “I felt sad-

ness for the people whose lives I just watched end.”

Annie passed the torch to the wife of a flight attendant who lost his life in the crash she had witnessed on television.

“I wanted her to know her husband’s death wouldn’t be forgotten or be in vain,” she said.

“When I passed the torch to her, I said, ‘For the soldiers, for your husband.’”

After carrying the torch, Vargas returned to her deployed location and is still supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.



# Brooks family child care offers convenient affordable care

**By Jeanie Smith**

*Family childcare coordinator*

An important decision parents face today is where to find reliable, convenient and affordable quality childcare.

The Base Family Child Care Program offers all of that to the Brooks community, including military, Department of Defense civilian employees and contractors.

Family child care homes offer in-home care provided by a caregiver for up to six children, sometimes including the provider's own children.

Whatever home you choose, it should meet your child's emotional and educational needs.

Before parents enroll their children in a family child care program, it is important to arrange and interview with the provider. Observe how the provider interacts with children and what the environment looks like. Parents will also want to consider how and what their child is fed. Meals should be nutritionally adequate and served in a pleasant atmosphere.

Additionally, parents should consider other factors. A few of those include:

Is the home licensed on base by the Brooks Family Child Care Office?

What training does this provider have and how often do they attend additional training?

Does the provider seem to enjoy working with the children and treat them properly?



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Sabrina Johnson*

**Family child care provider Fujiko Hutchins reads to a group of children under her care in her home.**

- Do the children appear happy?
- Are the children disciplined appropriately?
- How often is the television used?
- What types of activities are planned?
- Is the home clean, sanitary, safe and does it offer an inviting environment for children.
- Is there adequate play space inside and outside the home?
- Are there enough toys and variety for the children? Are the toys appropriate for their ages and are they safe?
- What are the policies concerning fees, visits, immunizations and health records, administering of medication, illness, vacation, leave and holidays?
- For a list of additional interview questions, more information on Brooks Family Child Care providers or to become a provider, contact Jeanie Smith, Family Child Care Coordinator at 536-2041, or stop by Bldg. 510.